

1.30-  
3.00

Decolonising Us: Kaupapa Māori as valid and relevant research methodology.

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Presenting author underlined

### **Introduction:**

The British colonisation of Aotearoa New Zealand caused an enduring legacy of inequity, poverty and deep ambivalence between Māori and Pākehā. This extends to weariness towards non-Māori researchers whose methods have included re-portraying and re-presenting distorted stories and statistics of Māori life and knowledge (Smith, 2012). During the 1980's a call for respectful and safe research with Māori communities became part of the foundation of the Kaupapa Māori movement.

### **Objectives:**

This workshop aims to provide a safe and stimulating environment for Māori to:

1. Explore why and how the Kaupapa Māori movement arose and its application to research theory and practice with Māori
2. Analyse how uncritical research is implicated in colonisation
3. Share and discuss how Kaupapa Māori research has been and is being used for occupational therapists research with iwi and Māori.

### **Methods/approach:**

Kaupapa Māori principles such as aroha ki te tangata (kindness), manaakitanga (integrity) and ako (learn, teach) will ensure a safe and stimulating environment. Consistent with a Māori understanding of knowledge, it is expected that understandings will be collaboratively revealed.

### **Results/practice implication:**

This workshop provides Māori occupational therapists an opportunity to directly engage with and experience decolonisation research practices. Participants will experience how integration of Kaupapa Māori research principles into daily life occurs through reclamation of us as valid and legitimate knowledge bearers, and community of healers.

### **Conclusion:**

Kaupapa Māori theory, research methodology and methods have created spaces for Māori to re-claim our identities as theorists of our own lives and futures, as people who have our own research questions and as scholars who privilege our own relevant and transformative research. As observers and enablers of transformational potential as expressed occupationally, the profession may contribute unique understandings to decolonisation work.